

FEDERAL REGISTER - 42 CFR Ch. 1 (10-1-93 Edition)
PART 5 - DESIGNATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS (HPSAs)

Summary of **Appendix B** - Criteria for Designation of Areas Having Shortages of
Dental Professionals

Designations are based on the degree of underservice for a geographic area, population group, or a facility (non-profit, public medical facility and medium-maximum security federal and state correctional institutions).

Requirements for Geographic Dental HPSA: 1) Rational service area; 2) Population:dentist ratio of 5,000:1 in defined service area or 4,000:1 if unusually high needs for dental services, insufficient capacity of existing providers, and more than 20% of the population is at or below poverty level or the area has an unfluoridated community water supply; 3) Contiguous area resource considerations (excessively distant \geq 40 minutes travel time to dentist; over utilized; otherwise inaccessible).

Requirements for Population Group Dental HPSA: 1) Low income, Medicaid-eligible, migrant farm worker, Native American, homeless populations; 2) 4,000:1 population:dentist ratio in the defined rational service area; 3) Contiguous area resource considerations (excessively distant = 40 minutes, over utilized, otherwise inaccessible).

Population Count: For a geographic DHPSA designation, the population count = Total permanent resident civilian population. Adjustments can be made for seasonal residents, migratory workers. The most recent Claritas database is the primary data source for population count. For a population group DHPSA, the population count = the number of people in a specific population group; i.e., low-income, Medicaid eligible, migrant farm worker, Native American, homeless.

Dental Provider Count: The dental provider count = All non-Federal dentists in general and pediatric practice providing direct patient care. Full-time-equivalencies (FTEs) reflect the overall productivity of dental providers based on the dentists' age, number of auxiliaries (dental hygienists, chairside dental assistants) employed, and the number of hours worked per week. FTEs for dental providers are based on 40 hours of direct patient care per week. FTEs for practitioners providing direct service for less than 40 hours per week are adjusted accordingly.

Determination of Unusually High Needs for Dental Services: An area is considered as having high dental need is at least one of the following criteria is met: 1) More than 20% of the population is at or below 100% of the federal poverty level; 2) The majority of the area's population does not have a fluoridated community water supply.

Determination of Insufficient Capacity of Existing Dental Providers: Insufficient capacity exists if at least two of the following criteria are met: 1) More than 5,000 office visits per year per FTE dentist in the area; 2) Unusually long wait for appointments for routine dental services (longer than 6 weeks); 3) More than 2/3s of area dentists do not accept new patients.

Contiguous Area Considerations: 1) Dental providers are more than 40 minutes travel time from the population center(s) being considered for designation; 2) Contiguous area population:FTE dentist ratio is in excess of 3,000:1; 3) Dentists in contiguous areas are inaccessible because of specific access barriers; i.e., linguistic, cultural, economic barriers.

Benefits of HPSA Designation: 1) National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Assistance for recruitment and retention of dentists in underserved areas; 2) Rural Health Clinic Certification; 3) CMS's 10% Medicare Incentive Program for geographic designations; 4) Eligibility for state and local resources; i.e. State Loan Repayment Program.